

REMARKS

The present application was filed on January 23, 2004 with claims 1 through 33. Claims 1 through 33 are presently pending in the above-identified patent application. Claims 1, 17 and 27 are proposed to be amended and Claims 6, 22 and 32 are proposed to be cancelled herein, without prejudice.

This amendment is submitted pursuant to 37 CFR §1.116 and should be entered. The Amendment places all of the pending claims in a form that is believed allowable, and, in any event, in a better form for appeal. It is believed that examination of the pending claims as amended, which are consistent with the previous record herein, will not place any substantial burden on the Examiner. *Applicants note that the Examiner has already indicated that the precise amended limitation is allowable.* These amended limitations were originally found in claims 6, 22 and 32, and Applicants submit that claims 1, 17 and 27, as amended, *have the same scope* as original allowable claims 6, 22 and 32. ***No new issues are raised by the present amendment and this amendment should be entered.***

In the final Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 17 and 27 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Fujitaka (United States Number 5,909,403). In addition, the Examiner indicated that claims 8-16 and 24-26 are allowed and that claims 2-7, 18-23 and 28-33 are objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Independent Claims 1, 17 and 27

Independent claims 1, 17 and 27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Fujitaka. With regard to claims 1, 17 and 27, the Examiner asserts that Fujitaka applies a biased gate voltage (to word line W1), relative to a source voltage (ground), to the gate of each of said plurality of transistors (Fig. 3 shows transistors R11, R4 of a same row receiving a same voltage as Word line W1) during at least a precharge phase (when PR signal is active high in FIG. 4).

The Examiner has indicated that Claims 6, 22 and 32 are allowable. These limitations have been copied into the corresponding independent claims 1, 17 and 27. Thus, Claims 6, 22 and 32 have been rewritten in independent form including all of the

limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, as suggested by the Examiner. As such, Applicants submit that all of the remaining claims are patentable.

Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the rejection of independent claims 1, 17 and 27.

Dependent Claims

The Examiner indicated that claims 8-16 and 24-26 are allowed.

In addition, claims 2-7, 18-23 and 28-33 were objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 2-5, 7, 18-21, 23, 28-31, and 33 are dependent on independent claims 1, 17 and 27, and are therefore patentably distinguished over Fujitaka because of their dependency from amended independent claims 1, 17 and 27 for the reasons set forth above, as well as other elements these claims add in combination to their base claim.

All of the pending claims following entry of the amendments are in condition for allowance and such favorable action is earnestly solicited.

If any outstanding issues remain, or if the Examiner has any further suggestions for expediting allowance of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below.

The Examiner's attention to this matter is appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,



Kevin M. Mason
Attorney for Applicants
Reg. No. 36,597
Ryan, Mason & Lewis, LLP
1300 Post Road, Suite 205
Fairfield, CT 06824
(203) 255-6560

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